

What is claimed is:

1. A drive unit for an electric motor-operated vehicle provided with a planetary gear mechanism having; a sun gear rotating together with a motor output shaft, a planetary gear meshing the sun gear, and a ring gear meshing the planetary gear; and constituted that an arm plate supporting the planetary gear is rotated with the rotation of the motor at a specified speed reduction ratio, characterized in that the ring gear is supported for rotation relative to a housing and that a switching mechanism for holding or releasing the relative rotation of the ring gear is provided.

2. A drive unit for an electric motor-operated vehicle according to claim 1, characterized in that an output shaft is connected to the axis of the arm plate, a wheel gear fixed to the inside cylindrical surface of a wheel is driven with an output gear formed on the output shaft and that the motor shaft and the output shaft are disposed coaxially.

3. A drive unit for an electric motor-operated vehicle according to claim 1, characterized in that the planetary gear mechanism is mounted on each of right and left wheels, there are provided an operation mechanism mounted on the vehicle frame, and a transmitting system for transmitting the action of the operation mechanism simultaneously to both switching mechanisms of the right and left planetary gear mechanism, and the relative rotation of the ring gears is held or released by the right and left switching mechanisms according to the operation of the operation mechanism.